

Remarks

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, and 8 have been amended. Claims 12-19 are new. Claim 2 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added.

Priority:

To satisfy the requirements of 35 USC §119(b), the Examiner has requested a certified copy of the German applications that were filed in Germany on 3/29/04 and 10/1/04. The Applicant has requested a certified copy for each of the German applications. The Applicant will submit a copy of each of the certified German applications when the copies are available.

Drawings:

The drawings stand objected to because a separate set of drawing sheets were not provided. A separate set of drawing sheets, in compliance with 37 CFR §1.121(d), are being submitted herewith, as requested by the Examiner, to overcome this objection. No new matter has been added.

Specification:

The disclosure is objected to because of informalities in paragraphs [0001], [0004], [0005], and [0007] where the Applicant refers to claims as part of the disclosure. The Applicant has replaced the reference to the claims with the appropriate information, as requested by the Examiner.

More specifically, in paragraph [0001], reference to the claims has been deleted to overcome this objection. In paragraph [0004], the limitations of claims 1 and 3, as filed, were added and reference to claims 2 and 4-11 has been deleted to overcome this objection. In paragraph [0005], reference to claim 1 has been deleted to overcome this objection. In paragraph [0007], reference to the claims has been deleted to overcome this objection. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112:

Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being

indefinite for failing to particularly point out an distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Applicant has amended claim 3 to delete the portion of the preamble that is rejected to the Examiner, to overcome this rejection. The Applicant has amended claims 1, 6, 7, and 8 to correct antecedent basis, as rejected by the Examiner, to overcome this rejection. Now new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102:

Claims 1, 3, and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,283,532 to Neubrand. As set forth in more detail below, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 2. Therefore, claims 1, 3, and 7 are allowable and the rejections of claims 1, 3, and 7 are moot and should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2, 4-6, and 8-11 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC §112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 2.

Claim 12 has been added in independent form. Claim 12 includes all of the limitations of original independent claim 1 and allowable claim 4. Allowable claims 5 and 6 have been rewritten as claims 13 and 14, respectively, to depend from allowable claim 12.

Claim 15 has been added in independent form. Claim 15 includes all of the limitations of original independent claim 1 and allowable claim 8. Allowable claims 9-11 have been rewritten as claims 16-18, respectively, to depend from allowable claim 15.

New Claim:

The Applicant has added new claim 19. Support for the new claim can be found in ¶'s[0033]-[0050] and in Figures 1 and 2.


CONCLUSION

This Amendment is believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action mailed January 11, 2008. The amendments to the claims, the remarks in support of the amended and rejected claims, and the new claims are believed to place this application in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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